

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 4, 2009
Room 415, State Capitol Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair
Sen. Brent Goodfellow
Sen. David Hinkins
Rep. Roger Barrus
Rep. Jack Draxler
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Christine Watkins
Rep. Brad Winn

STAFF: Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

Budget Overview: Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

John Harja, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO), stated the mission and purpose of PLPCO is to protect the interests of Utah and its citizens by providing an aggressive presence in the decisions regarding public land use in Utah. He presented an overview of the Office and summarized a publication distributed by Debby Montgomery.

Audit on the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office: Legislative Auditors

James Behunin, Darin Underwood, and Leslie Marks of the Office of the Legislative Auditor General, presented results of the Performance Audit of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, along with recommendations for changes. The auditors responded to Committee concerns.

Agency Response to the Audit: Public Lands Policy Coordination Office

Mike Mower, State Planning Coordinator, responded to the audit. Director Harja welcomed the findings of the audit and provided clarification of areas of agreement and concern. He voiced his intent to make necessary changes.

MOTION: Rep. Noel moved to direct the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office to encourage the governor to engage in the latest cancellation of leases and take legal action to protect revenue sources on public lands. The motion passed with Sen. Goodfellow voting in opposition. Rep. Winn was absent for the vote.

Division of Parks and Recreation: Analyst Presentation

Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, discussed the Budget Brief: Division of Parks and Recreation. The Division is responsible for the management and development of all state parks, statewide boating safety, and off-highway vehicle safety. Utah has 42 parks that are a combination of heritage, scenic, and recreation. In order to correct an error during the 2008 General Session, the Analyst recommended the following: (1) transfer \$1,500,00 one time (OHV restricted fund) from the Parks' Operations line item to the Capital line item; and (2) appropriate \$402,500 one time from the State Park Fees restricted account to the Parks' Capital line item.

The Analyst discussed the Compendium of Budget Information for the 2009 General Session, Line Item: Parks and Recreation and Line Item: Parks and Recreation Capital and reviewed the Issue Brief: Parks and Recreation, Fees. The Division is requesting increase of fees to generate additional revenue.

Parks and Recreation: Agency Presentation

Mary Tullius, Director, Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation, presented a DVD produced by the Division. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life by preserving natural, cultural and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. Mark Forbes, Deputy Director, distributed a handout detailing the successes, challenges and visions of the Division. The Director reviewed Funding Sources and summarized FY 2009 Budget Reductions. She responded to questions from the Committee regarding the OHV non-resident permit and intent language dealing with the OHV Family Camp Program.

MOTION: Sen. Stowell motioned to adjourn at 4:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair

Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair

